


CHAPTER 3
Guidelines for Site Elements

Site design is the relationship between a historic building and its site features, such as its setting and topography, lot layout, landscaping, paved features, outbuildings, and other elements within the property boundary.

This rural view with outbuildings is located in Taylorstown.

The historic greenhouse at Oatlands is built into its site.

This simple picket fence with classical posts is found in Bluemont.

A patio constructed of natural stone materials is found in Aldie.

A. INTRODUCTION

Site design is the relationship between a historic building and its site features, such as its setting and topography, lot layout, landscaping, paved features, outbuildings, and other elements within the property boundary.

These site features help define the historic character of the property and may be considered an important part of any project reviewed by the Historic District Review Committee (HDRC). As you plan your project you will need to consult the Zoning Ordinance for detailed requirements on many of the site features discussed in this chapter.

The historic districts of Aldie, Bluemont, Taylorstown, and Oatlands each developed from their location on early trade routes between Loudoun County and points in eastern and western Virginia, north into Maryland and south via the Carolina Road. As market routes changed from wagon to rail to automobile, these communities were often bypassed and therefore preserved with few late-twentieth century intrusions.

Predominantly linear villages have a similarity of site elements. Therefore, the discussions of the elements found in these districts are grouped together on the following pages.

NOTE:

While driveways and parking, walkways and paths, and plantings and trees are outside the purview of the HDRC, Recommendations for Compatibility are included here as general guidelines.

Looking north from Mercer House across John Mosby Highway in Aldie shows the hills to the south of the village.

The view to the south in Bluemont shows rolling pastures and distant mountains.

From US Route 15 at Oatlands, the view to the east has been protected through conservation and preservation easements.

The stone remnants of the bridge over the Catoctin Creek at the Taylorstown mill.

B. LANDFORMS, SITING, AND STREET PATTERNS

Landforms are the features of the land. They are the streams, the rolling hills, and interplay of open pastures and wooded land.

The siting of a structure can affect the long-range view from within the district looking outward or across the district. It may be the view of a compactly arranged central village with tree-lined streets, through a vacant lot to open pasture bisected by a creek, or across a tree line to the distant mountains.

Street patterns in the villages are organized with few cross-streets intersecting the main road through the village. Generally the topography, land ownership and development patterns preclude the introduction of additional public ways.

Aldie

The village occupies a fairly level section of land set between hills to the north and south. The millrace used to power the mill flows to the south of the structures on the south side of US Route 50 west of the Little River. A few early structures, including the home of the original owner of the mill, are set on the district's highest ground to the northwest and overlook the village.

Views from US Route 50 are framed by the mountains to either side. This road historically served as a connector between the Snickersville Turnpike and US Route 15. State Route 612 towards the eastern edge of the district provides a northern connection to US Route 15 as well. The relatively uninterrupted streetscape of historic buildings facing US Route 50 provides Aldie with its distinct character and is a reminder of its vital transportation role in Loudoun County's history.

Bluemont

The land generally slopes from north and west to the south, with the highest point occurring as Snickersville Turnpike enters the district from the west. Originally developed at the intersection of two trading routes, the Snickersville and Leesburg turnpikes, the central core of the village occupies the flattest land in the district.

The early rerouting of the Leesburg Turnpike and the arrival of the railroad account for the roads that bisect the district. Early twentieth century development took advantage of the views afforded by the hilly terrain that surrounds the village adding to the history of this historic village.

Taylorstown

The more descriptive early name of Taylorstown was Millford. The village was located where early Quaker settlers forded Catoctin Creek. Remnants of an early stone bridge over the creek can be seen entering the district from the north on Taylorstown Road (State Route 665). The terrain in the district slopes from south to north and east to west.

Views from the core of the district look out to surrounding pasture land, creek and hills. This hamlet was established at the intersection of the Loyalty (State Route 665) and Taylorstown roads which provided connections to settlements at Waterford and via State Route 672 to the Potomac River and Lovettsville.

The rural edge of US Route 50 disappears as this historic trade route enters the linear village of Aldie.

Houses line the Snickersville Turnpike in Bluemont.

A green edge characterizes the James Monroe Highway as it continues south from Oatlands' main gate.

Loyalty Road has a narrow character, with banks to each side and a tree edge, at its arrival in Taylorstown from Waterford.

Oatlands

A wooded hillside on the west side of US Route 15 opens to pasture lands sloping from west to east on the plantation site on the east side of the road. The lack of development along this stretch of US Route 15 allows uninterrupted views of rolling fields to the east. Archaeological remnants of the Oatlands Mill are one of the district's primary historic resources. Near the mill site at the southern edge of the district, a small settlement occurred along Oatlands Mill Road. Other development primarily faces US Route 15 or is contained within the plantation site which is traversed by private farm roads.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Refrain from artificially contouring the landscape.
2. Do not reroute existing natural or historically important man-made waterways.
3. Do not obscure important views from the property or from other properties in the district by the siting of new construction.
4. Do not introduce dead-end streets such as cul-de-sacs into the district. They are a suburban street pattern and are not appropriate in the district.
5. Wide sidewalks and rows of streetlights lining the main thoroughfare are not appropriate to the scale of the villages.

GUIDELINES

1. If the subdivision of a large parcel occurs, street patterns should reinforce the historic precedent and conform to appropriate zoning regulations underlying the historic district overlay. The random nature of most streetscape elements, where they exist in the districts, should be reinforced.
2. Preserve existing landforms and features in their natural state.
3. Minimize any grade changes.
4. Retain existing trees and other site vegetation, especially when retention provides a backdrop for structures or a visual edge between properties.
5. Protect views, especially of natural features such as mountains, agrarian open spaces, and other features that define parcel boundaries such as hedgerows.
6. Site any new construction according to historic precedents and without obstructing historic views.
7. Reinforce the historic pattern of streets/roads and maintain existing street/road patterns within the district.
8. New sidewalks in the historic district should follow historic precedents for materials, width, and location.
9. If a number of paving materials have been used in the district's sidewalks, base the choice of material for the new section upon the age of development of the majority of structures along the length of the sidewalk to be installed.

C. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

The County has an archaeological record that dates back at least 10,000 years. Because of the abundant watercourses, particularly the Potomac River, the county has for thousands of years sustained human occupation. In the western part of the County, Goose Creek and Catoctin Creek were prime sources of water and wildlife for prehistoric peoples. These watercourses attracted the earliest European settlers as well and these secondary river systems served as the lifeblood for the early inhabitants of Waterford, Goose Creek, Taylorstown, Aldie and Oatlands. Over 1,500 archaeological sites have been identified thus far in the County.

The county requires archaeological investigation for most development applications. Though the county does not require property owners seeking a CAPP to conduct archaeological survey, it is important to understand that you are stewards of the history of your property, including archaeological resources and that they should be preserved as part of that responsibility.

Each historic building is an artifact of a specific period in county history. The rest of the story lies beneath the house, yard, gardens, and fields. Most of the architecture of the districts is not the original dwellings of the earliest settlers. Historic lands often yield features and artifacts related to earlier historic, or even prehistoric, occupation of the property and can often provide much more insight about the life and culture of a property's inhabitants than architecture itself.

If you think you may have remnants of a previous structure on your property, please contact the Department of Planning before you continue with your project.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Avoid siting new construction on or near a known archaeological resource.
2. Attachments to structures should not mask, damage, or destroy character-defining features such as archaeological sites.

GUIDELINES

1. Minimize disturbance of terrain, thus reducing the possibility of destroying unknown archaeological features or materials.
2. Locate new construction away from any known archaeological resources. Archaeological resources should be avoided and conserved.
3. Inform the Department of Planning if archaeological resources are discovered. They are protected by the same section of the Code of Virginia as historic buildings and above-ground sites.
4. Delay construction, where disturbance of the site is unavoidable, so that the site may be properly recorded by a qualified archaeologist before it is disturbed. Professional excavation is scientific and systematic in nature and involving detailed mapping and analysis.
5. Keep artifacts collected while gardening, tilling or construction on a property together as a collection. When possible make note of where on the property artifacts were found.

The ruins of Carter's Mill are located along Goose Creek in the Oatlands district.

NOTE:

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has standards and guidelines that professional archaeologists must adhere to when conducting investigation in Virginia. These ***Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Virginia*** are found in the ***Guidelines for Conducting Cultural Resource Survey in Virginia available at***:

www.dhr.virginia.gov/arch_DHR/archaeo_index.htm.

Across the driveway from the house, this garage dates to the early twentieth century. Note the metal gable roof and board-and-batten clad exterior walls. Rather than continuing the mass of the gable roof, a shed roof addition was used to provide additional storage space.

NOTE:

Bona fide farm buildings and structures may be exempted from HDRC review per Section 6-1902 (A) of the Zoning Ordinance. An exemption will be granted where it is found that requested change would not have a clear and substantial detrimental impact on the character of the historic district.

D. ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND BREEZEWAYS

The area directly around each primary historic structure typically provided a work area for the dwelling's occupants. Many early residences, even in villages, would have been surrounded by accessory structures. Chicken coops, smokehouses, separate kitchens, outhouses, and stables were not uncommon. Each was sited for maximum advantage and expedited workflow.

General stores, then grocery stores, and the popularity of the automobile, reduced the need for on-site food production in the twentieth century. Occasionally, village lots will retain a representative outbuilding, but rarely does the overall character of the original lot arrangement survive.

Paint and trim colors and standing-seam roofs unify the main house and a cottage located behind it.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Do not tear down existing historic outbuildings.
2. Do not use metal prefabricated outbuildings.
3. Do not construct new outbuildings whose design is not scaled to the lot and house.

A collection of outbuildings located to the sides and rear of this village lot represent a historic arrangement.

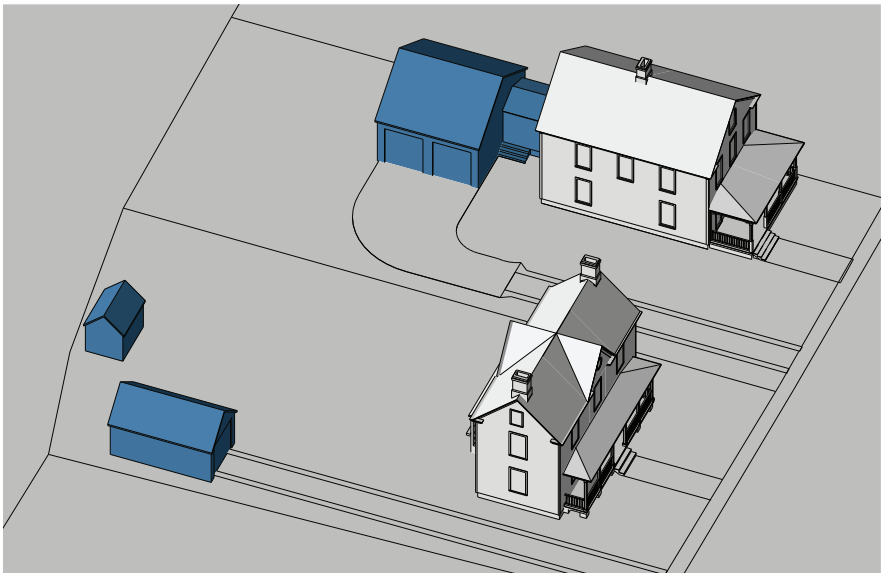
This row of gable-roofed board-and-batten barns and sheds is located along Taylorstown Road.

The garden dependencies at Oatlands reflect the formal layout of the plantation in both their placement and construction.

D. ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND BREEZEWAYS, continued

GUIDELINES

1. Retain and repair historic outbuildings following the *Guidelines for Existing Structures* found in *Chapter 6*.
2. Ensure that the design of any new outbuilding is subordinate to the main historic structure in scale, mass, and siting.
3. The HDRC has established a hierarchy for garage placement and design.
   a. The most desired design is for a detached garage, that if designed according to historic precedents, may have appropriate doors facing the street.
   b. A covered breezeway connecting the garage to the house may also be acceptable based on the siting of the house and design and orientation of the garage.
   c. If a garage is included in a new structure, its doors should not face the right-of-way and should be screened from view.
4. Place new garages to the rear of lots that are large enough to accommodate them following the applicable zoning requirements.
5. Design new outbuildings to be compatible with the style and character of the primary building on the site, especially in scale, materials, and roof slope. It is acceptable for masonry buildings to have frame outbuildings. For more information on appropriate new construction, see *Chapter 4*.
6. Consider the use of a breezeway to connect an existing detached garage to the main structure rather than constructing an attached garage. Use the same technique for new construction.
7. Paint outbuildings, garages, and breezeways to coordinate with the primary structure on the site.
8. Look for structural remnants of previous outbuildings to inform new outbuilding placement.

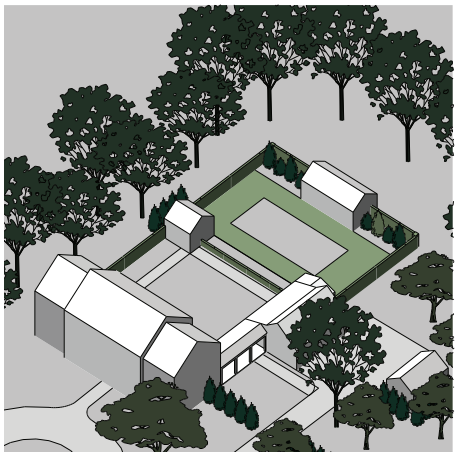


(upper) This two-car garage is located behind the house and with the doors at a right angle to the street. A breezeway or hyphen connects the house and garage. The gable roof of the garage echoes the pitch found on the historic structure.

(lower) A new single-car garage follows the historic precedent for placement and mass and therefore may face the street.

A classically designed pergola reflects the formality of the garden at Oatlands and serves as a focal point as well as a shelter from the weather. Plantings soften its appearance and are encouraged by a wooden lattice that screens the structure.

The formal garden at Oatlands is surrounded by mature trees and screened from public view. Such an arrangement may be considered when design outdoor living spaces.



An ordered layout for outdoor living features may be created through the use of accessory structures, fences, wall and plantings. In this illustration, the garage is connected to the main structure by a breezeway. The garage placement provides a sense of enclosure for the rear garden. A shed at the opposite corner further defines this space and serves as an anchor for the pool enclosure. A pool/guest house is on axis with the main house and provides an additional focal point.

E. OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES

The former workspace around many village residences now serves the leisure activities of the homeowner. It therefore can be a challenge to incorporate modern amenities such as patios, decks, swimming pools, ornamental ponds and fountains, and pergolas or gazebos while retaining the historic appearance of the site.

Through proper location of these features, and working with site elements such as fencing and plantings, many of these features can be screened from view, thus reducing their impact on the character of the district.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Do not add modern living spaces such as patios, decks, swimming pools, ornamental ponds and fountains, and pergolas or gazebos in the front yard of village dwellings.
2. Do not radically change the contour of the lot when installing new outdoor living spaces.
3. Do not use materials that are out of character with the historic district, such as vinyl or composites, or unpainted pressure-treated wood.
4. Refrain from the use of forms and patterns that convey a false sense of history. These site elements should be part of the continuity of the site and should not be confused with the original character of the property.

GUIDELINES

1. Place modern amenities where their siting minimizes their impact on the historic appearance of the property and site.
2. Use historically appropriate materials and colors for all outdoor living space elements. Refer to other sections in this chapter for appropriate paving and structural materials in your district.
3. Relate the materials used to those found in the construction of the buildings and other elements already existing on your lot. Adjacent lots of a similar age and architectural style may also be used for reference.

NOTE:

Bona fide farm fences may be exempted from HDRC review per Section 6-1902 (A) of the Zoning Ordinance. An exemption will be granted where it is found that requested change would not have a clear and substantial detrimental impact on the character of the historic district.

F. FENCES AND WALLS

Aldie

Few front yards along the John Mosby Highway have fences. The early postmaster's house, Narrowgate, is an exception and displays a well-crafted mortared stone and wrought iron fence. An adjacent brick wall screens the site parking at the side of the house. Other fences and walls often mark the side boundaries of lots and may be crafted of dry-stacked or laid stone at the edge of district or painted wooden board or wooden rail.

Bluemont

Many house lots along Snickersville Turnpike have fenced front yards. A variety of materials add visual interest to these lot edges and include American wire, wood picket, wrought iron, mortared stone, dry-stacked stone, and painted wood rail.

Oatlands

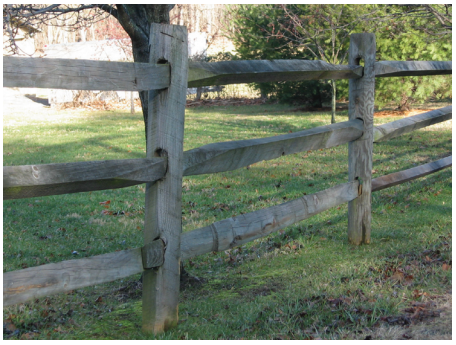
The original wall at the front of the mansion site was laid in a three-to-six course common bond on a mortared stone foundation. A balustrade with brick piers was added to this wall in the early-twentieth century. Elsewhere on the site and adjoining properties, both wooden picket and wooden board fences can be found.

Taylorstown

Creosoted wooden board fences often delineate the property edges of large sites in the district. Painted picket fences are used on later sites and provide a road edge to at least one agricultural property in the district.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Do not exceed the average height of other fences and walls of surrounding properties with the height of the new fence or wall.
2. Do not use chain link, vinyl, or concrete block walls.
3. Do not use solid masonry walls that visually enclose the property from surrounding more open neighboring sites. Low stone walls are common in the districts and are appropriate.
4. Do not fence front yards unless this is the prevailing condition.



Split rail fences were among the earliest form of fencing in the districts as they required little finish work and the raw material was readily available.

Like the split rail fence above, flat board fences are used primarily for agricultural properties. Boards are usually creosoted or stained to prolong the life of the wood.

Picket fences come in many designs. Here simple rectangular wooden pickets are punctuated with capped square columns. Horizontal rails near the top and bottom of the pickets provide stability. Pickets fences should be painted and are appropriate for village residences built after the mid-nineteenth century.

Dry stack stone walls were often constructed from stones found on the property. The weight of the stones keeps the wall in place although periodic maintenance is needed.

A mortared stone wall is capped by jagged stones as an added security measure. Differing treatments may be traced to the work of various local masons.

Here a dry stack wall is reinforced by a board fence placed directly behind it.

A low mortared stone wall and stone piers provide the base for a metal rail fence.

GUIDELINES

1. Ensure that fence heights conform to zoning regulations.
2. Retain any existing historic fences.
3. Repair existing historic fences and walls by salvaging original parts or materials for a prominent location from a less prominent location, when possible.
4. Replace existing historic fences by matching the material, height, and detail.
5. Relate the scale, materials, color, and detail of the design of any new fence or wall to the scale, materials, and detail of the historic building. Simple designs are most appropriate to the district's historic character.

This new stone fence uses a historically appropriate color palette and random sizes. The mortar technique identifies it as new.

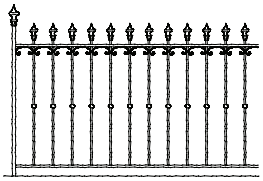
Iron fences in a variety of design became popular in the Victorian period.

The masonry block used to construct this wall is the same material from which the house is constructed and provides continuity.

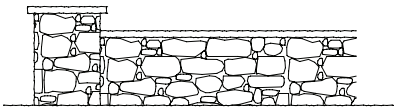
American wire fence also come in various styles although the most common is this double loop.

F. FENCES AND WALLS, continued

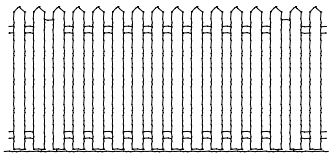
TYPICAL FENCE AND WALL STYLES

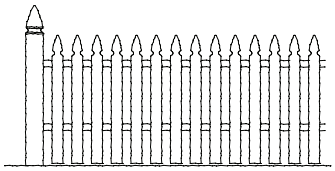


Decorative wrought iron fence

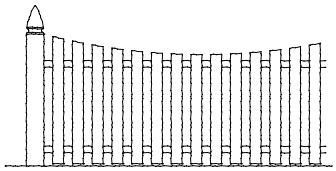


Stone wall

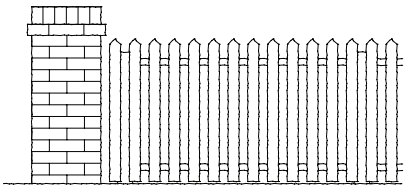




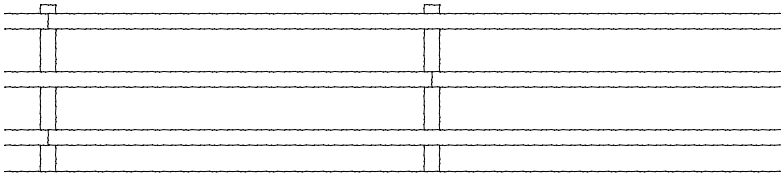
Two types of wood picket fences



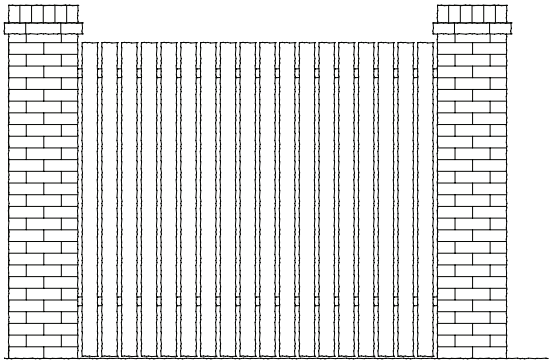
Decorative wood picket fence



Brick or stone piers with simple wood picket fence



Simple board or plank fence



Privacy fence with a combination of brick or stone piers and simple wood pickets

G. MECHANICAL AND UTILITIES' SCREENING

Site appurtenances, such as overhead wires, fuel tanks, utility poles and meters, antennae and satellite dishes, exterior mechanical units, and trash containers, are a necessary part of contemporary life. The placement of these items can either have a neutral impact on the character of the site and structure or detract from their historic appearance.

Site features fall into two categories; those features that can be controlled by the property owner – antennae, satellite dishes, mechanical units, trash containers; and those that cannot – such as overhead wires and utility poles.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Avoid placing satellite dishes on roof areas or on porch roofs visible from public rights-of-way.
2. Avoid placing miscellaneous site objects, such as trash containers, in front yard locations. If there is no other location, screen them from public view with plantings or fencing appropriate to your site.

GUIDELINES

1. Place site appurtenances in inconspicuous areas on the rear of the building, when possible.
2. Screen the location with appropriate plantings or fencing, allowing for appropriate airflow to these units.
3. Consider placing overhead utilities underground wherever possible.
4. Place antennae and satellite dishes on inconspicuous locations.

Mechanical units are often located along the side of the house facing the driveway. Here a lattice screen is combined with plantings to shield the unit from view.

Mature evergreens have grown to screen the mechanical unit located on the side of this structure. The open branching of the boxwood allows air to circulate around the unit.

H. ACCESSIBILITY

Access ramps are sometimes a necessity for residents of an older house that does not have an at-grade entrance. These ramps can often be added to historic buildings in a design that relates well to a historic porch and without substantially altering significant features of the building.

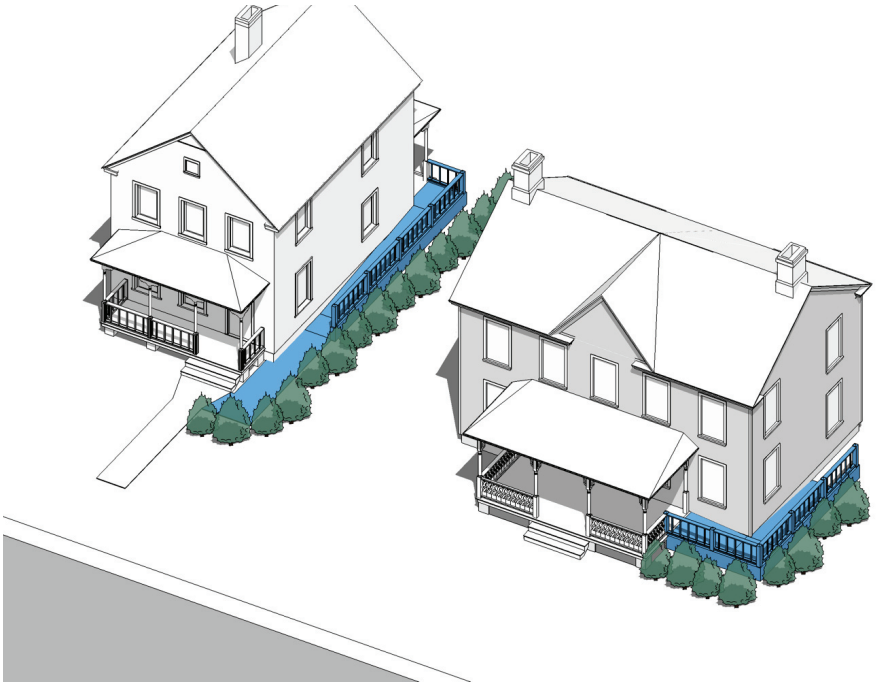
Prior to construction of a ramp, you should seek advice from the Department of Planning. This office may be able to direct you to professionals that have experience in designing accessibility solutions.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT

1. Do not place the ramp over the primary historic walkway or path. This may impede normal pedestrian access to the building.

GUIDELINES

1. Design ramps or lift enclosures to have the least visual effect on the building and/or setting.
2. Ensure that any solution is reversible; that it may be built, used, and removed without permanent damage to the historic features of the building.
3. Construct ramps using materials compatible with existing materials on the building.
4. Retain and preserve historic elements, such as porch railings, so that these original features may be restored to the structure when a ramp is removed.
5. Consider the use of a mechanical lift rather than a ramp if the entrance is elevated more than 12 inches above grade. ADA access requirements require a maximum rise of one inch per foot.



Two possible accessibility options are shown here. Both designs are informed by the existing porch design and are screened by evergreen plantings to reduce their visual impact on the historic structure.

I. LIGHTING

Most of the houses in these villages were built long before the advent of electricity. Over time exterior lighting may have been added to individual sites. Small electric fixtures are often attached to either the wall adjacent to the front door or to a porch ceiling to provide illumination for the entry. In rare instances, a pole-mounted lantern-style fixture may be placed near steps or a driveway edge.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Do not install a series of small fixtures lining a walkway or driveway.
2. Avoid unshielded security lighting and floodlights as they are not consistent with the character of the districts.

GUIDELINES

1. Retain any existing historic light fixtures.
2. Repair and refurbish historic light fixtures when possible.
3. Replace a historic light fixture only when parts for the existing fixture can no longer be found or replicated.
4. Check with local architectural salvage companies for period-appropriate light fixtures.
5. Use fixtures that are compatible with the character of the historic building and the surrounding area.
6. Choose light levels that provide for adequate safety but do not overly emphasize the residential site or building. Often, existing porch lights may be sufficient.

A pendant light fixture may be attached to either a portico (above) or porch (below) ceiling.

Lantern-style fixtures constructed of metal and glass can be found mounted individually (above left) and in pairs (above right) throughout the historic districts.

Lantern style fixtures may also be mounted on poles and used to light a pathway.

A historic brick wall partially screens this parking area located at the side of the house. In warmer months, a deciduous tree provides shade to the area.

Located to the side of this Bluemont house, a driveway uses two materials to reduce its mass - exposed aggregate concrete and paving brick. The color of these materials complements the adjacent stonework.

The circular drive at Oatlands is paved in gravel, a pervious material that allows water to drain rather than run off.

A curved gravel driveway lined with trees leads from Taylorstown Road along a fenced paddock to Foxton Cottage.

NOTE:

While driveways and parking are outside the purview of the HDRC, recommendations for compatibility are included here.

J. DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING AREAS

Aldie

Residential site parking is often located to the side of the historic structure on unpaved gravel areas. Where dwellings have been converted to commercial or retail uses, often the front yard has been surfaced to provide parking for the new establishment. These lots front directly onto the main thoroughfare and may also serve as a display space for the merchants.

Bluemont

Asphalt, gravel, aggregate concrete, and brick paved driveways often lead to sheds or garages placed near the rear of residential lots. Commercial sites and those residences without driveways often accommodate automobiles through parallel parking on gravel edges at the front lot line or site parking located near the front or side of the structure.

Taylorstown

The nature of the various site types in this district defines the use of driveway paving materials and the location of parking. Residences located well off of the public road are often reached by winding gravel paths. The spaces directly in front of the district's two stores provide a gravel area for parking. Victorian residences at the crossroads locate unpaved parking areas to the rear of their lots.

Oatlands

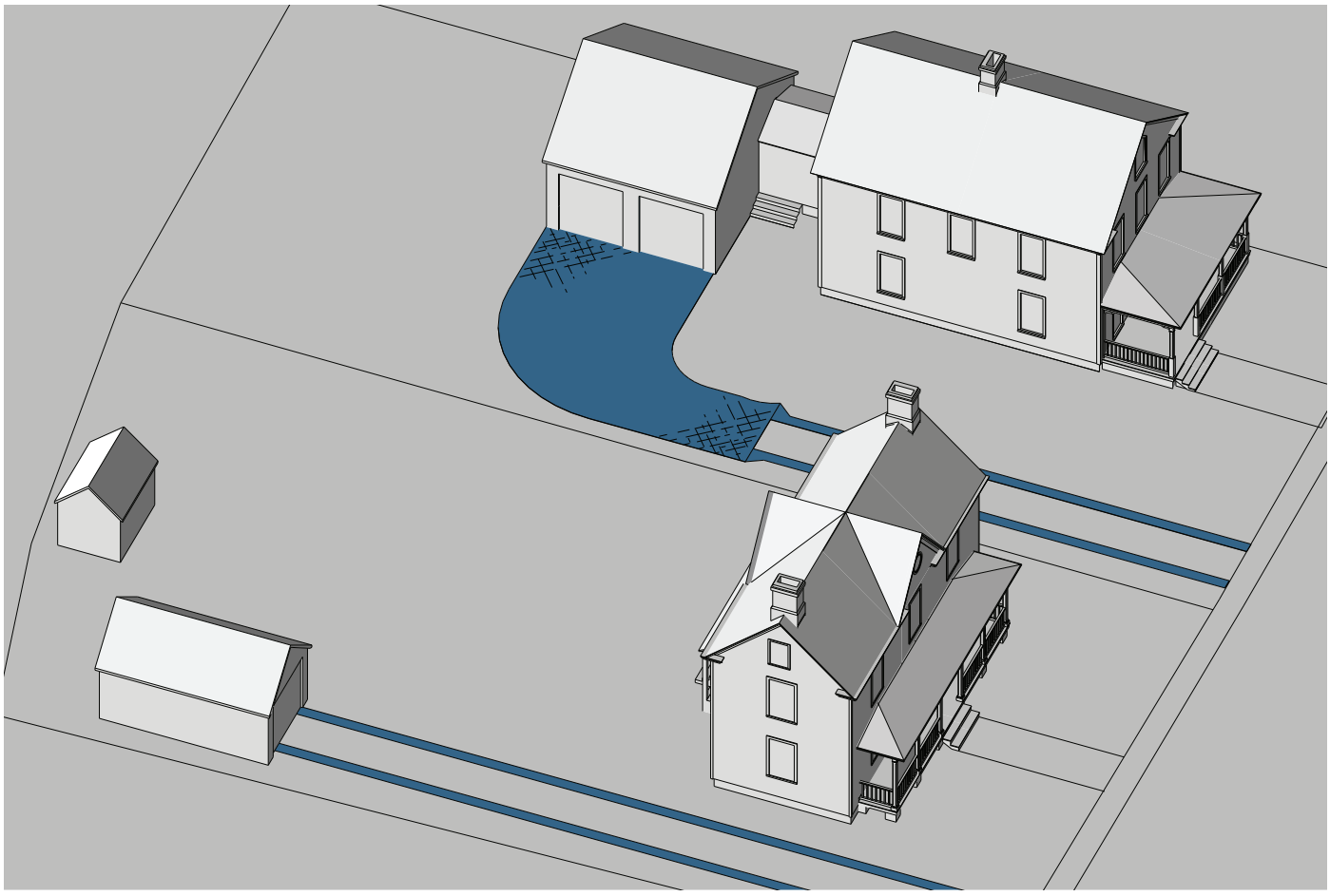
Most public and staff parking for the mansion are buffered by evergreen trees near the carriage house. A circular drive in front of the mansion wraps a specimen magnolia and a network of unpaved roads traverses the landscape, connecting outbuildings and small, settled areas.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Avoid placing driveways on narrow lots if the driveway will have a major visual impact on the site.
2. Do not place paved areas for parking in the front yard.
3. Avoid using large expanses of bright white or gray concrete surfaces or asphalt in visible areas.
4. Do not demolish historic buildings for parking.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPATIBILITY

1. Retain existing historic driveways.
2. Replace damaged areas with materials that match the original paving material in color, size, texture, and finish.
3. Locate driveways only on large or medium size lots that can accommodate such a feature.
4. Locate new parking to the side or rear of existing buildings. It should be screened with plantings if visible from a public right-of-way.
5. Ensure that new paving material is compatible with the character of the district. The most historically appropriate materials in the villages are aggregate finished concrete and gravel.
6. Consider the use of permeable paving materials to reduce runoff.



New driveways should follow historic examples for placement leading to a parking area or garage at the rear of the lot or behind the house. The ribbon form driveway illustrated above reduces the amount of paving needed, and reduces the environmental impact of the driveway. Pervious pavers are shown at the end of the driveway for the two-car garage and are another strategy to reduce runoff.

NOTE:

While walkways and paths are outside the purview of the HDRC, recommendations for compatibility are included here.

K. WALKWAYS AND PATHS

Aldie

Brick is the most appropriate and most prevalent walkway materials in the district. Stone, such as the native fieldstone found in structure foundations, is also an appropriate material for site paving in the district.

Bluemont

A few historic brick paths are evident in the district, but the vast majority of connection between houses and the public road are concrete walks. This concrete is warm in color rather than the gray concrete seen in most new construction. There are also a few stone entry walks and some gravel paths within the district.

Taylorstown

The majority of site paths in Taylorstown date to construction in the early-twentieth-century era and are a warm-colored concrete scored into squares. Earlier properties in the district display replaced paths of aged concrete or brick laid in a historic pattern such as running bond.

Oatlands

The most formal of any spaces in the village districts, paths in the arranged areas around the main house are laid in herringbone pattern brick. Outside of this area there are few site walks or paths due to the rural nature of the properties.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENTS

1. Avoid using large expanses of bright white or gray concrete surfaces or asphalt in visible areas.
2. Do not demolish contributing historic buildings for paths.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPATIBILITY

1. Retain existing historic walkways.
2. Replace damaged areas with materials that match the original paving material in color, size, texture, and finish.
3. Locate walkways and paths according to historic precedents and in arrangements that are appropriate to the size of the lot and scale of the structure.
4. Ensure that new paving material is compatible with the character of the district. The most historically appropriate materials are brick, stone, and warm-toned concrete.

Aged concrete is common for paths and stairs in many of the districts. When repairing or adding paths, take care to match the color and finish of the historic concrete.

Brick set in a herringbone pattern provides a formal appearance for this path at Oatlands.

When set in a running bond pattern, a brick path tends to look more informal as seen in Taylorstown.

For properties that are rural in character, an appropriate site path may be grass-covered as seen on this native fieldstone bridge.

NOTE:

While plantings and trees are outside the purview of the HDRC, recommendations for compatibility are included here.

L. PLANTINGS AND TREES

Like the placement of a structure on its site, the character of the landscape and accompanying plantings contribute to the identity of the historic district.

Aldie

Historic buildings are often sited near the road, and may not allow space for plantings in these minimal front yards. Where space allows, some evergreen foundation plantings can be found. Often large site trees to rear of these village lots provide a wooded backdrop for the historic structures.

Bluemont

This settlement at the base of the mountains retains a wooded character. Mature deciduous and evergreen site trees punctuate front lawns and evergreen plantings soften foundations and porches. Many lots retain wooded edges as they back onto undeveloped land.

Oatlands

A formally designed and planted garden can be found adjacent to the mansion. The historic dwelling has no foundation plantings, however, the facade is accented by a specimen magnolia tree around which the circular driveway wraps. A tree-edge divides formal and informal spaces on the grounds. This edge and other specimen plantings are used to buffer views of service buildings and to frame the distant landscape.

Taylorstown

Many properties in the district retain a wooded edge towards the road. Within the individual sites, a number of large cedar and oak trees add character to the landscape. Victorian-era dwellings are often accented with foundation plantings, usually evergreen in nature.

INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT

1. Do not allow foundation plantings to grow out of scale with existing front porches.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPATIBILITY

1. Retain existing trees and plantings that help define the district's historic character. Mature trees and other plantings can also help to shade the house or protect it from wind.
2. Replace diseased or dead plants and trees with indigenous species. Native plants are more resistant to drought conditions and therefore need to be watered less often.
3. Use new native plants that, when mature, will be in scale with the size of the structure and the lot.
4. Identify and take care to protect significant existing trees and other plantings when constructing new buildings.

Mature site trees serve as a buffer from the road at the edge of this residence in Taylorstown.

Evergreen foundation plantings are common in the districts.

Specimen trees should be identified and preserved.

Plantings may also be used to soften the appearance of fences and walls.